



BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES **Thursday, October 27, 2022**

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Friday, October 28, 2022

Members present: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Andrew Landis, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren

Members absent: Courtney Barbieri, Janet Flisak and Ken Keith

Others present: Henry Franz, John Franzen, Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly and Michael Taylor

1. Welcome

1.1 Call to Order - Board President

In the absence of Mr. Keith, Mrs. Scheuren called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

1.2 Meeting Protocol

Mrs. Scheuren outlined the following meeting protocol:

- Persons wishing to address the Board about an item(s) listed on the agenda must sign in on the **blue** sign-in sheet with name address, municipality, and item(s) that they wish to address. They will be called to the podium by the President.
- Persons wishing to address the Board on a matter(s) not listed on the agenda must sign in on the **yellow** sign-in sheet with name, address, municipality, and a brief description of the matter(s) that they wish to address. They will be called to the podium by the President.
- All statements are to be directed to the Board President; no participant may address or question Board members individually, unless directed by the presiding officer.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Scheuren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Roll Call - Board Secretary

Mr. Taylor called the roll. Six board members were present.

2. Spotlight Video

2.1 Spotlight Video

Superintendent Gallagher announced the video that was being shown would highlight the High School Advanced Choir performing the unofficial theme song of The Philadelphia Phillies, *Dancing On My Own*.

3. Report of the Student Representatives to the Board

3.1 Student Representatives Update on Activities and Events at Souderton Area High School

Junior Emma Potter introduced herself as a member of Student Council and reported on the successful Homecoming events that included a pep rally, a wing bowl, a lip dub video, and a football game and dance that were well attended.

Senior Nolan Hughes reported on recent high school events including the Fall Choral Concert, National Honor Society induction ceremony, and Fall sports playoffs.

The representatives also noted upcoming events; the end of the first marking period, the Veteran's Brunch, a Blood Drive and the Fall Play.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items

4.1 Public Comment

There were no public comments on agenda items.

5. Report of the President

5.1 Report on Executive Session Meeting(s) held by the Board

Mrs. Scheuren reported that an Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters. The session lasted approximately 60 minutes.

6. Report of the Superintendent

6.1 The Superintendent will report on school district items

Superintendent Gallagher wished those who are celebrating a happy and safe Diwali. He also noted the successful High School Homecoming events. He thanked the local fire companies for their including student presentations in their acknowledgement of Fire Prevention Month. He also thanked the parents and guardians of the elementary Home & School Associations for their support in making guest author visits, trunk or treats, Bingo night, and Fall socials possible for our students. The Superintendent acknowledged the middle school and high school athletic programs and the upcoming performing arts productions and concerts.

Dr. Gallagher also made a statement regarding curriculum and a presentation from a high school health and wellness course. Dr. Gallagher stated that the specific presentation has been under review and is not being used for instruction. He stated that the school district is constantly reviewing curriculum as it relates to the guidelines of The Pennsylvania Department of Education. He noted that the district is currently awaiting state revised standards for Health, Safety, and Physical Education and will align its Health and Wellness courses to those Pennsylvania standards as required by Chapter 4 of the School Code.

Dr. Gallagher stated that any new curriculum and curriculum revisions will be presented through the Education Personnel Committee of the School Board. He noted that this is a transparent process to ensure that curriculum and instruction is consistent with the mission and values of the school district.

7. Consent/Action Agenda

7.1 Consent/Action Agenda Protocol

The Superintendent made a recommendation to the Board for a motion to approve the Consent/Action item(s) listed. Board members are invited to remove items from the Consent/Action agenda if further discussion is needed.

7.2 Approve School Board Meeting Minutes from September 2022

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2022 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

7.3 Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND CHECK LISTINGS FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 2022.

7.4 Approve Request(s) to Attend Conferences/Workshops

The Administration is seeking Board approval of conference/workshop requests as listed below:

Michael Taylor
 Director of Business Affairs
 PSBA School Leadership Conference
 Pocono Manor, PA
 Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, 2022
 \$535.50
 Budget: Business Department

Michael Taylor
 Director of Business Affairs
 PASBO Annual Conference
 Pocono Manor, PA
 March 14 - 17, 2023
 \$868.25
 Budget: Business Department

Lisa Ball
 Assistant Business Manager
 PASBO Annual Conference
 Pocono Manor, PA
 March 15 - 17, 2023
 \$499.00
 Budget: Business Department

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST(S) TO ATTEND CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS AS LISTED.

7.5 Approve Request(s) for Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips

The Administration is seeking approval for a request for an out-of-state/overnight field trip.

Souderton Area HS Girls Basketball
Basketball Tournament
RADD Sports Complex
Wesley Chapel, FL
December 27 - 31, 2022
13 students / 2 adults
Funding: Student

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE/OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST(S) AS LISTED:

7.6 Approve Personnel Items - Professional Staff

RETIREMENT	
DIPIETRO, KIMBERLY	Second Grade Teacher, Vernfield Elementary School Effective: October 12, 2022
RESIGNATION	
AIKEN, ALEXANDRA	Art Teacher, Vernfield Elementary School Effective: On or before December 19, 2022
VAN WART, MEGAN	Middle Level Staff Development Coach Effective: On or before December 5, 2022
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CHILDREARING LEAVE	
MENSCH, ALLISON	Third Grade Teacher, Vernfield Elementary School Request for extension of childrearing leave through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Mensch plans to return at the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - PROFESSIONAL STAFF

7.7 Approve Personnel Items - Support Staff

RESIGNATIONS	
GIBSON, DENNIS	Part-Time Custodian, Souderton Area High School Effective: July 15, 2022
MSCICHOWSKI, SHANNON	Cafeteria/Playground Aide, EMC Elementary School Effective: September 28, 2022
SCHEMPP, JOY	Receptionist, District Office Effective: October 31, 2022
TRAVIS, EMMA	Intervention Teaching Assistant, Vernfield Elementary School Effective: September 12, 2022
NEW HIRES	
BERGSTRESSER, CARRIE Replacement for Joy Schempp (Resigned)	Receptionist, District Office Effective: November 1, 2022 Wage: \$17.10 per hour - Hours: 7.5 per day, 261 days per year
DOUGLASS, SUSAN	Swim Instructor, Aquatics Program Effective: September 26, 2022 Wage: \$13.00 per hour - Hours: As Needed
GONZALEZ MORALES, JANIRIS Replacement for Miriam Bednarczyk (Resigned)	Cafeteria/Playground Aide, EMC Elementary School Effective: October 24, 2022 Wage: \$11.19 per hour - Hours: 3 per day
GUARNA, CHRISTINA New Position	Part-Time Attendance Administrative Assistant, Souderton Area High School Effective: October 3, 2022 Wage: \$15.83 per hour - Hours: 4 per day, 190 days per year
JONES, RIKKI Replacement for	In-School Suspension Monitor, Souderton Area High School Effective: October 17, 2022

Patricia Ripka (Transfer)	Wage: \$16.11 per hour - Hours: 7 per day, 95 days max per year
KIEFER, MELANIE Replacement for Alison Zajatz (Resigned)	Cafeteria/Playground Aide, EMC Elementary School Effective: October 3, 2022 Wage: \$11.44 per hour - Hours: 3 per day
MAYHEW, KRISSA Replacement for Emma Travis (Resigned)	Intervention Teaching Assistant, Vernfield Elementary School Effective: October 3, 2022 Wage: \$17.40 per hour - Hours: 5.5 per day
STINGER, MICHELLE Replacement for Adam Jomli (Resigned)	Part-Time Custodian, Souderton Area High School Effective: October 31, 2022 Wage: \$13.25 per hour - Hours: 4 per day
WOODS, KARA	Swim Instructor, Aquatics Program Effective: October 6, 2022 Wage: \$13.00 per hour - Hours: As Needed
TRANSFER	
BARNES, CAMRYN Replacement for Ian Taverna (Resigned)	From: Summer Custodian To: Part-Time Custodian, Indian Crest Middle School Effective: August 30, 2022 Wage: \$13.25 per hour - Hours: 4 per day
MCDEVITT, RICHARD	From: Part-Time Custodian, Indian Valley Middle School To: Part-Time Custodial Substitute Effective: October 31, 2022 Wage: \$13.25 per hour - Hours: As Needed

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - SUPPORT STAFF

7.8 Approve Personnel Items - Mentors & Peer Coaches

NAME	POSITION	TERM	SALARY
Kenneth Meyers	Peer Coach for Nathan Hanson	Remainder of 2022-2023 School Year	\$111

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - APPROVE MENTORS & PEER COACHES

7.9 Approve Personnel Items - Supplemental Contracts

AME	POSITION	SCHOOL	SALARY
Kristi Grandy	National Honor Society Co-Advisor	Souderton Area High School	\$525
Clint Johnston	Robotics Co-Advisor	Souderton Area High School	\$462.50

The following are changes to previously approved items on the September 22, 2022 board agenda:

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	SALARY
Cynthia Geschwindt	National Honor Society Co-Advisor *Now a shared position	Souderton Area High School	\$525 *previously approved at \$1,050
Walter Dennis Robertson	Robotics Co-Advisor *Now a shared position	Souderton Area High School	\$482.50 *previously approved at \$965

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

7.10 Approve Personnel Items - Additions to Substitute Teacher List

Elizabeth Birkhead
Nicole Crugnale
Melissa Lollar
Christy Mack
Krissa Mayhew
Joseph Riley
Kristina Walters

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE PERSONNEL ITEMS - ADDITIONS TO SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST

7.11 Second Reading of Policy 218.1 Weapons

Administration is seeking a Second Reading to revise Policy 218.1 - Weapons. The revision will replace the current policy with the recommendations for Pennsylvania School Board Association for legal liability purposes.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING TO POLICY 218.1 - WEAPONS

7.12 First Reading of Policy 810.2 Transportation - Video / Audio Recording

Administration is seeking a First Reading to replace Policy 810.1 Transportation Video Monitoring with Policy 810.2 Transportation - Video / Audio Recording to include recommendations from the Pennsylvania School Board Association.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF POLICY 810.2 TRANSPORTATION - VIDEO / AUDIO RECORDING

7.13 Approve Agreement with BusPatrol - School Bus Safety Technology

The Administration is recommending the approval of an Agreement with BusPatrol, an AI-enabled stop-arm camera school bus safety program.

Resolution to: MOTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH BUSPATROL - SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TECHNOLOGY

7.14 Approve Resolution to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds

Motion to approve Resolution to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds. This motion allows the District to fund new money needs of the District in the approximate amount of \$10,000,000.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

7.15 Approve Act 57 of 2022 Resolution

The Administration recommends approving the Act 57 of 2022 resolution for each of the taxing districts in the Souderton Area School District.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE ACT 57 OF 2022 RESOLUTION

7.16 Approve Contract Amendment and Resolution with Portnoff Law Associates

The Administration recommends approval of a contract amendment and resolution with Portnoff Law Associates for the collection of delinquent real estate taxes.

Resolution: APPROVE CONTRACT AMENDMENT AND RESOLUTION WITH PORTNOFF LAW ASSOCIATES

7.17 Approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Teamsters Local 384

The Administration recommends approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with Teamsters Local 384 permitting signing-on and referral bonus payments for bargaining unit members effective October 28, 2022

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH TEAMSTERS LOCAL 384 PERMITTING SIGNING-ON AND REFERRAL BONUS PAYMENTS FOR BARGAINING UNIT MEMBERS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 28, 2022

7.18 Approve Substitute Bonus Pay Guidelines

The Administration recommends approval of updated per-diem substitute bonus pay guidelines effective October 31, 2022

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE SUBSTITUTE BONUS PAY GUIDELINES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 31, 2022

7.19 Approve Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release

The Administration is seeking approval for the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for (1) Souderton Area School District student.

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

7.20 APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED

Resolution: MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED.

MOTION TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED.

Motion by William Brong, second by Stephen Nelson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Andrew Landis, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren

8. Discussion/Action Agenda

There were no Discussion/Action Agenda items.

9. Future Meetings

9.1 Future Meetings

Mrs. Scheuren announced future meetings:

DATE	ORGANIZATION	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday November 9 2022	SASD Board of School Directors Committee Meeting	6:30 PM	District Administrative Office
Wednesday November 16 2022	MCIU Board of Directors Meeting	6:45 PM	MCIU
Thursday November 17 2022	SASD Board of School Directors Board Action Meeting	7:00 PM	District Administrative Office
Monday November 21 2022	NMTCC Joint Operating Committee Meeting	7:00 PM	District Administrative Office

10. Report of the Solicitor

10.1 Report of the Solicitor

There was no report from the Solicitor.

11. Unfinished/New Business of the Board

11.1 Unfinished/New Business from the Board

There was no unfinished or new business from the Board

12. Public Comments

12.1 Public Comments

Ms. Mullins of Franconia Township expressed concerns of school district teachings, and shared details of her daughters health. Ms. Mullins asked the Board to monitor what the teachers are saying to their students.

Mr. Reich of Lower Salford reinforced the comments from the previous speaker and expressed concern that some of the school district's instruction could be contradictory to the values and beliefs of parents. He also requested that parent be able to opt-out of instruction as they see fit.

Mr. Breithaupt of Franconia Township spoke to his frustration in trying to find the curriculum on the school district website. He also stated that the school district should not be teaching family values and not to complicate instruction.

Mrs. Breithaupt of Franconia stated that she is very content with the instruction that her grandchildren are receiving in their schools. She stated that teachers should not be teaching their own agenda and that the School Board should oversee what they are teaching.

Ms. Derstine of Telford spoke to her personal beliefs and stated that the teachers should not be teaching sexual indoctrination. Ms. Derstine also requested that the Board implement changes and policies that would protect parental rights.

Mr. Hershberger of Franconia requested a permanent withdrawal of the subject of sexuality from the curriculum.

Mr. Dobson of Lower Salford expressed concern that parental rights could override human rights. Mr. Dobson thanked the school district and praised its teachers for their instruction.

- Inaudible comments and interruptions from the audience prompted the Solicitor to state that the speaker is entitled to speak and the audience should remain quiet with no further comments.

Mr. Dobson praised the diverse community and reinforced his desire for respect and tolerance by everyone.

Mr. Shisler of Franconia shared his personal beliefs and stated that schools should only be teaching reading, writing, arithmetic and history. He also stated that all other teaching is the responsibility of the parents.

Ms. Perry of Telford requested that the curriculum that has been put on hold be permanently removed. She also stated that gender studies are inappropriate.

Ms. Spigel of Lower Salford thanked Dr. Varano and the GSA club at the high school for hosting Solidarity Week. Ms. Spigel said that by hosting it, it teaches empathy and equity and builds responsible citizens. Ms. Spigel asked that the Board continue to support these efforts in schools.

Superintendent Gallagher made a statement regarding Solidarity Week noting that the exercise was part of the district's participation and designation as a No Place For Hate school. He also stated that one of the things taught is character development and respect for others, even when their views differ from yours. Dr. Gallagher stated his passion to advocate for each and every child in the school district. He stated that the district will stand up for protecting each student and are proud to teach students how to welcome and respect marginalized groups and work to keep hate in any form, out of schools.

Dr. Gallagher read the school district mission statement aloud: "The shared values and beliefs of the Souderton Area School District guide our mission focused on student growth. We believe our community has a fundamental commitment to educating the whole child. We believe our community has a responsibility to support the education and well-being of all of its members. We believe our students, educators, staff, families, and the broader community are part of a collaborative system that promotes the success of our schools."

Dr. Gallagher thanked everyone for their comments and reinforced that so many care about the students of Souderton.

13. Adjournment

13.1 Adjournment of the Meeting

Mrs. Scheuren adjourned the meeting at 7:59 P.M.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS' MEETING.

Motion by William Brong, second by Thomas Kwiatkowski.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Andrew Landis, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Taylor, C.P.A.

Board Secretary/Director of Business Affairs